



Wisconsin Ag News – Farm Computer Usage and Ownership

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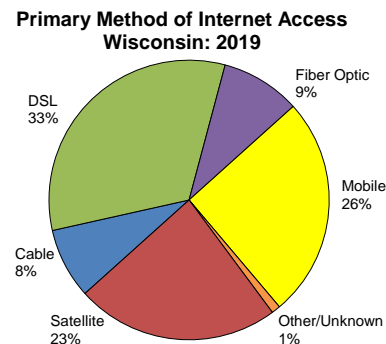
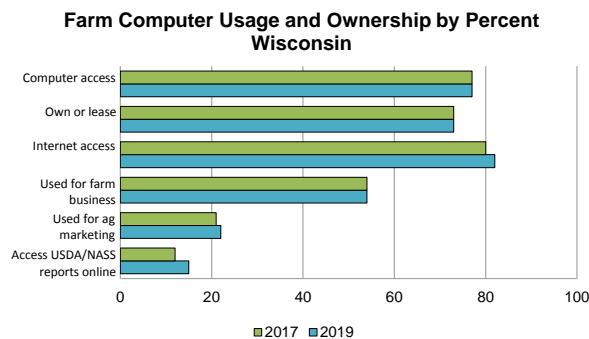
Cooperating with Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection

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Seventy-three percent of Wisconsin farms own or lease a computer, 4 percentage points higher than the U.S. percentage, according to the latest USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service *Farm Computer Usage and Ownership* report. Seventy-seven percent of Wisconsin farms report having access to a computer, unchanged from 2017. Farms using computers for their farm business remained unchanged, at 54 percent, 5 percentage points above the national percentage, which rose to 49 percent.

Eighty-two percent of Wisconsin farms have Internet access, up 2 percentage points from 2017 and seven percentage points above the U.S. percentage. DSL (Digital Subscriber Line) remains the most common method of access, with 32 percent of farms in Wisconsin with access to the Internet utilizing DSL, down 7 percentage points from 2017. In 2019, mobile Internet service was the second most common way to access the Internet in Wisconsin, at 25 percent. The proportion of Wisconsin farms using satellite service increased 7 percentage points from 2017, rising to 23 percent.



Farm Computer Usage and Ownership – Wisconsin and United States: 2017 and 2019

Farms	Wisconsin		United States	
	2017 (percent)	2019 (percent)	2017 (percent)	2019 (percent)
With desktop or laptop computer access	77	77	72	73
Own or lease desktop or laptop computers	73	73	68	69
Use desktop or laptop computers for farm business	54	54	48	49
Use smart phones or tablets for farm business	38	45	44	52
With Internet access	80	82	73	75
Purchase agricultural inputs over Internet	27	23	24	24
Conduct agricultural marketing activities over Internet	21	22	19	19
Access USDA NASS reports over Internet	12	15	11	12
Access other USDA reports/services over Internet	23	22	19	20
Access other federal government websites over Internet	19	25	20	21
Conduct business with any USDA website	7	11	9	11
Conduct business with any other federal government website	7	12	9	9
Conduct business with any non-agricultural website	51	59	50	53
Primary method of Internet access				
Dialup	2	2	3	3
DSL	39	32	28	22
Cable	11	8	16	16
Fiber optic	6	9	9	12
Mobile	24	25	19	18
Satellite	16	23	23	26
Other/Unknown	2	1	2	3

UNITED STATES

General computer usage and internet access categories increased from 2017 to 2019 in the United States. Nationally, 75 percent of farms reported having access to the internet, with 73 percent of farms having access to a desktop or laptop computer. Farms that used a desktop or laptop computer to conduct farm business was up 1 percent from 2017. Over half of the farms in the United States used a smart phone or tablet to conduct farm business, compared to 44 percent in 2017.

In 2019, 26 percent of farms used satellite and 22 percent of farms used a Digital Subscriber Line (DSL) to access the internet. Since 2017, Satellite and DSL continue to be the most popular choices that United States farms use to access the internet.